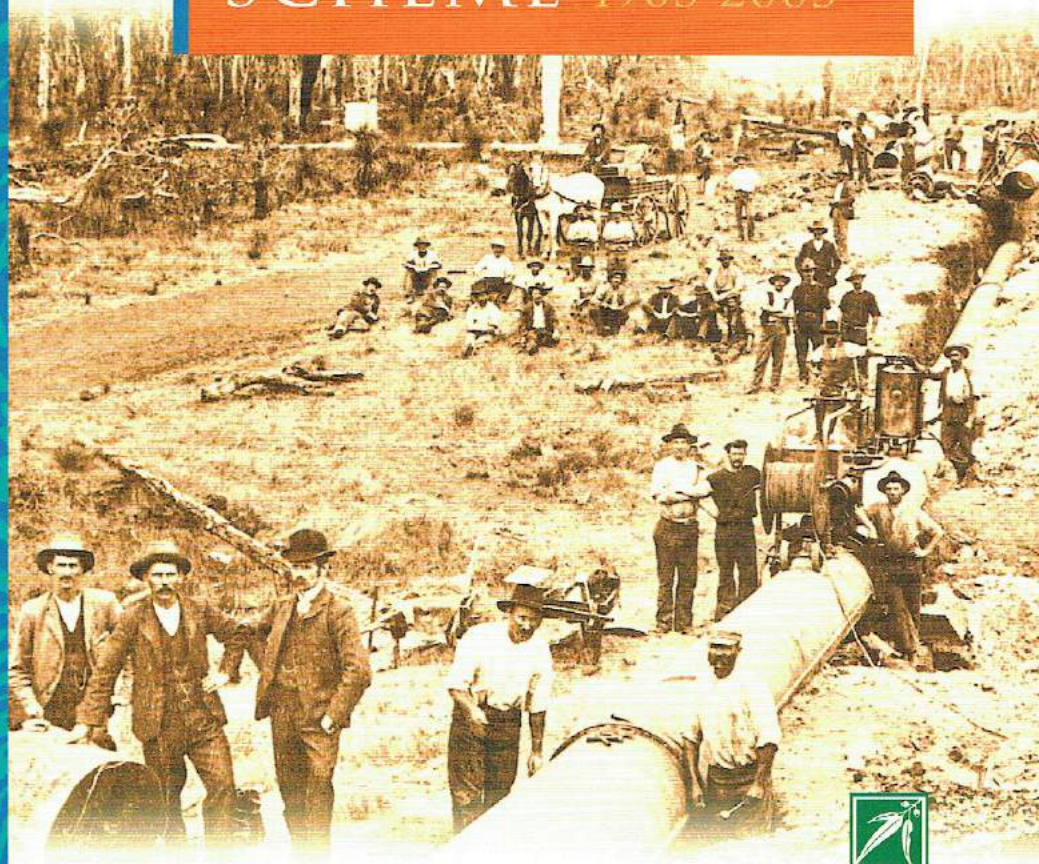




THE GOLDEN PIPELINE

CENTENARY OF THE

GOLDFIELDS
WATER SUPPLY
SCHEME 1903-2003



NATIONAL
TRUST

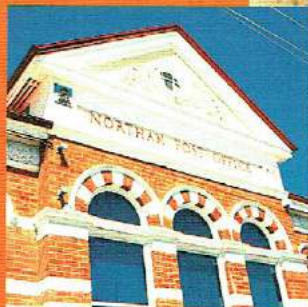
In 2003 The National Trust of Australia (WA), Water Corporation and communities in the Wheatbelt and Goldfields are celebrating the centenary of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme – one of the most significant public works in the history of Western Australia.

The scheme was made necessary by a rush of people in the 1890s to the arid areas around what is now Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie-Boulder - thanks to the discovery of gold. With prospectors dying of thirst and disease there was a dire need to supply water to people, mines and livestock. Western Australia astonished the world with its bold scheme to pump water a distance of 560 km. It was a work in hydraulics that had no parallel.



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It was an age when machines were powered by steam. It was a time when Western Australia had few industries and had to import most of its needs. Yet, engineer CY O'Connor designed a practical proposal to pump water uphill from the Darling Range just east of Perth and pipe it inland.

The scheme's grand opening was attended by a large delegation of federal politicians who travelled from the eastern states. Prominent amongst them was Sir John Forrest, previously Premier of Western Australia.

Lady Forrest officially turned on the pumps at No 1 Pump Station at Mundaring Weir on 22 January 1903. Two days later people turned out in their thousands in Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie, despite the sweltering heat, for the opening ceremonies. Sir John Forrest, who had persuaded the Western Australian Parliament to build the pipeline, said prophetically: "*...it will be said of us, as Isaiah said of old 'They made a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert'.*"





"The Coolgardie scheme is all right". (O'Connor's suicide note, March 1902).

The scheme had been plagued with criticism – people had claimed the innovative rivetless steel pipe would leak, that the storage dam would not fill with water, that the eight pump stations would be a chain of failures, that the gold would run out and the water wouldn't be needed

But on 24 January 1903 – *"a golden day in the calendar of Western Australia"* – Sir John Forrest turned a key and water from the hills near Perth cascaded from the mouth of a pipe into Mount Charlotte Reservoir in Kalgoorlie.

Sadly the criticism had taken its toll and CY O'Connor, the designer of the scheme, was not present at the celebrations. He had taken his own life in March 1902.

*"... hearty
congratulations on the
completion of the great work
of supplying water to your
golden lands."* Australian Prime
Minister Edmund Barton's
telegram to the Premier
of WA.



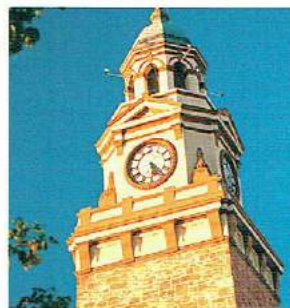


At the opening of the scheme Sir John Forrest said prophetically *"I pray God that this river of pure water may give health, comfort and prosperity to all those who come within its life-giving influence ..."*

One hundred years later communities along the pipeline are holding ceremonies to recognise the significance of this outstanding engineering achievement and reflect on the effect it has on their lives.

The original scheme has been expanded to serve the agricultural areas as well as the goldfields – 8 000 kilometres of pipe serving 100 000 people and six million sheep in an area two-thirds the size of Tasmania.

The Golden Pipeline is a National Trust project that is conserving the heritage of the Gold-



"The first stream of water to pass through Kalgoorlie from the Helena Valley Reservoir flowed into the Mount Charlotte reservoir this afternoon. A few minutes before 3 o'clock the gurgling sound of the imprisoned stream was heard in the pipes. A cry of 'Here it comes' resulted in a crowd quickly gathered at the reservoir ... to get the first glimpse of the stream." The

Western Mail Kalgoorlie
Jan 16th, 1903.

fields Water Supply Scheme and making its significance more widely known. This includes conserving buildings such as No 1 Pump Station and providing information to the public. To celebrate the scheme's centenary the Trust has built a Heritage Trail that takes travellers from Mundaring Weir, the source of the Goldfields water, to Mount Charlotte in

Kalgoorlie, the end of the pipeline. A richly illustrated guidebook is available that contains a wealth of information not only on Golden Pipeline history and sites but also the country the pipeline traverses.

Membership, donations and sponsorship of the National Trust demonstrates your support and at the same time makes a real contribution to ensuring our shared heritage is available for current and future generations to enjoy.

*The National Trust (WA) would like to
acknowledge the following sponsors and supporters
of the Golden Pipeline project.*

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The National Trust of Australia (WA)

For more information or to offer your support, bequest or donation to the
ongoing effort of maintaining the Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail and other
National Trust heritage properties and projects please contact us at

The National Trust (WA),

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Tel (08) 9321 6088 Web: www.ntwa.com.au Email: trust@ntwa.com.au

THE GOLDEN PIPELINE

Mundaring Centenary Celebration

PROGRAM

- 10.00 Guests and general public arrive
- 10.15 Guests seated
- 10.20 Welcome by indigenous group
- 10.25 Mr Godfrey Lowe, Manager Golden Pipeline Project, National Trust of Australia (WA) thanks the indigenous group and introduces Water Corporation Chairman Mr Tim Ungar
- 10.30 Mr Lowe introduces Mr Brian Negus (great great grand nephew of Sir John Forrest)
- 10.34 Mr Lowe thanks Mr Negus introduces Mr Ian Leggoe, State Communications Manager representing Australia Post
- 10.35 Mr Leggoe presents a framed commemorative stamped envelope to Mr Terry Geraghty President of the Shire of Mundaring
- 10.37 Mr Lowe thanks Mr Leggoe and introduces Hon Dr Judy Edwards MLA, Minister for Heritage
- 10.41 Mr Lowe thanks Dr Edwards and introduces His Excellency Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC
- 10.41 His Excellency Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC addresses guests, presents a bottle of Mundaring Weir water to representative from Veteran Car Club and farewells the vehicles as they set off for Kalgoorlie
- Children perform *C Y O'Connor* and *Water More Precious Than Gold* songs as the veteran vehicles depart
- 10.48 Mr Lowe thanks His Excellency and invites him to cut a ceremonial cake
- 10.50 Pieces of cake offered to guests